

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-21 (Canceled)

Claim 22 (Currently Amended) A braking and damping device, comprising:
a fluid cylinder having a cylinder wall;
two pistons that are arranged so as to be linearly displaceable relative to one another in said fluid cylinder;
a piston rod for displacing one of said two pistons in said fluid cylinder; and
an elastically deformable sealing member arranged between said two pistons such that when damping occurs by said piston rod displacing the one of said two pistons in said fluid cylinder, said elastically deformable sealing member is squeezed between said two pistons by said displacement of the one of said two pistons relative to the other of said two pistons and pressed against said cylinder wall.

Claim 23 (Withdrawn) The braking and damping device of claim 22, wherein the one of said two pistons has an open cavity at a front face thereof into which a second of said two pistons is introduced, the second of said two pistons is mounted in said first piston in a freely displaceable manner, the second of said two pistons has an outer casing with an annular projection disposed in front of the one of said two pistons, and said sealing member is arranged between said annular projection and said front face of the one of said two pistons.

Claim 24 (Withdrawn) The braking and damping device of claim 23, wherein said front face of the one of said two pistons is inclined rearwardly from the second of said two pistons towards said cylinder wall of said cylinder.

Claim 25 (Withdrawn) The braking and damping device of claim 23, wherein said cavity of the first of said two pistons has abutments which delimit a displacement path of the second of said two pistons.

Claim 26 (Withdrawn) The braking and damping device of claim 23, wherein the second of said two pistons comprises an annular skirt.

Claim 27 (Withdrawn) The braking and damping device of claim 26, wherein said skirt comprises a rubber elastic material.

Claim 28 (Withdrawn) The braking and damping device of claim 26, wherein said skirt is arranged to skim over said cylinder wall of said cylinder during movement of the second of said two pistons in said cylinder.

Claim 29 (Withdrawn) The braking and damping device of claim 23, wherein at least one elastic spacer is provided between a floor of said cavity of the first of said two pistons and a rear side of the second of said two pistons.

Claim 30 (Withdrawn) The braking and damping device of claim 29, wherein the second of said two pistons is made of plastic material and said at least one elastic spacer is formed on said rear side of the second of said two pistons.

Claim 31 (Withdrawn) The braking and damping device of claim 29, wherein at least one recess is provided in said floor of said cavity for said at least one elastic spacer.

Claim 32 (Withdrawn) The braking and damping device of claim 22, wherein said cylinder wall comprises axially extending grooves positioned so as to permit passage of a pneumatic medium when said two pistons are disposed in a front end position of said cylinder.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented) The braking and damping device of claim 32, wherein the pneumatic medium is air.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented) A braking and damping device, comprising:
a fluid cylinder having a cylinder wall;
two pistons that are arranged so as to be linearly displaceable in said fluid cylinder;
a piston rod for displacing one of said two pistons in said fluid cylinder; and
an elastically deformable sealing member arranged between said two pistons such that
when damping occurs by said piston rod displacing the one of said two pistons in said fluid
cylinder, said elastically deformable sealing member is squeezed between said two pistons and
pressed against said cylinder wall;
wherein a second of said two pistons comprises a seal which seals with said cylinder wall
of said cylinder.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented) The braking and damping device of claim 22, wherein said
sealing member comprises a solid body made of a rubber elastic material that connects said two
pistons.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented) The braking and damping device of claim 35, wherein said
two pistons have recesses in front faces thereof and said sealing member has projections received
in said recesses.

Claim 37 (Withdrawn) The braking and damping device of claim 22, wherein said
elastically deformable sealing member comprises a cylindrical bellows.

Claim 38 (Withdrawn) The braking and damping device of claim 37, wherein said
cylindrical bellows has a plurality of peripherally extending ribs which lie sealingly against said
cylinder wall.

Claim 39 (Withdrawn) The braking and damping device of claim 37, wherein said bellows
contains hydraulic fluid.

Claim 40 (Withdrawn) The braking and damping device of claim 37, wherein said bellows is anchored with a positive fit in said two pistons.

Claim 41 (Withdrawn) The braking and damping device of claim 22, wherein a compression spring is inserted in between said two pistons.

Claim 42 (Previously Presented) A braking and damping device for a piece of furniture, comprising:

- a fluid cylinder having a cylinder wall, said fluid cylinder being mounted on the piece of furniture;

- two pistons that are arranged so as to be linearly displaceable in said fluid cylinder;

- a piston rod for displacing one of said two pistons in said fluid cylinder, said piston rod being positioned so as to be engageable by a movable part of the piece of furniture; and

- an elastically deformable sealing member arranged between said two pistons such that when damping occurs by said piston rod displacing the one of said two pistons in said fluid cylinder, said elastically deformable sealing member is squeezed between said two pistons and pressed against said cylinder wall.

Claim 43 (Previously Presented) A braking and damping device, comprising:

- a fluid cylinder having a cylinder wall;

- a first piston and a second piston that are arranged so as to be linearly displaceable in said fluid cylinder along an axis;

- a piston rod for displacing said first piston in said fluid cylinder;

- wherein said second piston is disposed opposite to said first piston and has a seal sealing said second piston with respect to said cylinder wall;

- an elastically deformable friction braking member arranged between said first piston and said second piston such that when damping occurs by said piston rod displacing said first piston in said fluid cylinder, said elastically deformable friction braking member is deformed by being

squeezed between said first piston and said second piston and pressed against said cylinder wall so as to cause damping caused by friction in addition to damping caused by fluid damping.

Claim 44 (Withdrawn) The braking and damping device of claim 43, wherein said cylinder wall comprises axially extending grooves to permit passage of fluid of said fluid cylinder when said first piston and said second piston are disposed in a front end position in said cylinder.

Claim 45 (Previously Presented) The braking and damping device of claim 43, wherein said friction braking member is in the form of a solid body manufactured from a rubber elastic material which connects said first piston and said second piston.

Claim 46 (Previously Presented) The braking and damping device of claim 45, wherein said first piston and said second piston each have recesses in front faces thereof and said friction braking member has projections received in said recesses.

Claim 47 (Previously Presented) The braking and damping device of claim 43, wherein said cylinder is structured and arranged to employ a pneumatic medium as an operating fluid.

Claim 48 (Previously Presented) The braking and damping device of claim 43, wherein said cylinder is structured and arranged to employ air as the operating fluid.

Claim 49 (Previously Presented) The braking and damping device of claim 43, wherein said friction braking member is a single body, the material of which is squeezed between said first piston and said second piston.

Claim 50 (Previously Presented) The braking and damping device of claim 43, wherein said first piston and said second piston are made of a rigid material.